

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /008 R

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DRAFTED BY: IATF:OPS/WMILLIGAN

APPROVED BY: IATF:JVTAF

IATF:OPS:LMAYNARD

----- 128064

O 282252Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI IMMEDIATE

CP PENDLETON IMMEDIATE

FT CHAFFEE IMMEDIATE

EGLIN AFB IMMEDIATE

INDIANTOWN GAP IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203503

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATORS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE WASHDC 203503 TOSEC 100194

DTG 262349Z AUG 75 ACTION AMEMB MOSCOW AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMB PARIS AMEMB VIENTIANE USMISSION GENEVA USDEL SECRETARY

AMEMB BANGKOK USUN CINCPAC

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203503 TOSEC 100194

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:CPRS, ETEL, VS

SUBJECT: MAIL SERVICE TO SVN

REF: A) STATE 178371; B) HONG KONG 9769 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. US POSTAL SERVICE RECEIVED CABLE AUGUST 22 FROM SOVIET
POSTAL ADMINISTRATION STATING: "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION
FROM POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM,
POSTAL SERVICE BETWEEN SVN AND USA IS NOT ESTABLISHED. IN
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VIEW OF THIS FACT, SVN REFUSES TO ACCEPT DISPATCHES FROM

USA."

2. THIS CABLE REVERSES IMPORT OF JULY 28 CABLE FROM SOVIET POSTAL ADMINISTRATION (REF A) WHICH STATED SOVIETS PREPARED TO PROVIDE TRANSIT FOR MAIL FROM US TO SVN. ALTHOUGH JULY 28 MESSAGE DID NOT STATE THAT SAIGON HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT MAIL FROM US, USPS AND WE ASSUMED SOVS WOULD NOT HAVE SENT CABLE WITHOUT INDICATION FROM NEW SAIGON AUTHORITIES THAT MAIL WOULD BE ACCEPTED. ON THIS ASSUMPTION, AUG. 22 CABLE WOULD REPRESENT REVERSAL OF POLICY BY SAIGON AUTHORITIES, PRESUMABLY IN RETALIATION FOR USG VETO OF THEIR UN APPLICATION. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT SOVS SENT JULY 28 MESSAGE WITHOUT CHECKING WITH SAIGON/HANOI AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH THIS STRIKES US AS UNLIKELY IN VIEW SOVIET POSTAL ADMINISTRATION'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES ON POSTAL MATTERS SUCH AS PACKAGES FOR US POW'S IN NORTH VIETNAM.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT SAIGON'S POSITION AS REPORTED IN AUG. 22 CABLE CONFLICTS WITH ARTICLE 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, WHICH ESTABLISHES AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES A SINGLE POSTAL TERRITORY FOR THE RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF LETTER POST ITEMS. REACTION OF PRG REP TO HONG KONG POSTMASTER GENERAL'S PROPOSAL FOR MAIL TO SVN, IMPLYING THAT SPECIAL AGREEMENT IS NEEDED FOR MAIL SERVICE TO SVN (REF B), SIMILARLY CONFLICTS WITH THIS FUNDAMENTAL UPU PRINCIPLE.

4. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, USPS WOULD LIKE TO SEND CABLE TO SAIGON POSTAL ADMINISTRATION ASKING IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT MAIL FROM USA ON BASIS UPU AGREEMENT. THEY HAVE AGREED TO DEFER THIS OR ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR A FEW DAYS PENDING RECEIPT OF FURTHER INFORMATION.

5. FOR MOSCOW: WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF SOVS ARE ABLE TO SEND THEIR OWN MAIL (AND OTHER NON-US MAIL) TO SVN. ALSO IF SOVS CHECKED WITH SAIGON BEFORE SENDING THE JULY 28 AFFIRMATIVE CABLE. WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER YOU CAN DO AT YOUR DISCRETION TO OBTAIN THIS INFO FROM SOVIET OFFICIALS.

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6. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE ASK UPU IF THEY KNOW OF ANY COUNTRIES CURRENTLY SENDING MAIL TO SVN, AND IF SAIGON HAS INDICATED INTENTION TO ASSURE RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER UPU CONVENTION.

7. FOR PARIS AND HONG KONG: WOULD APPRECIATE UPDATE ON HOST'S EFFORTS TO GET MAIL TO SVN.

8. FOR VIENTIANE: DOES LAOS HAVE MAIL SERVICE TO SVN?
INGERSOLL UNQTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POSTAL SERVICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE203503
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IATF:OPS/WMILLIGAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0886
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975089/aaaaahds.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ITFE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 178371, 75 HONG KONG 9769
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAIL SERVICE TO SVN
TAGS: CPRS, ETEL, VS, US
To: CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006